



## DEVON LOCAL OPTICAL COMMITTEE

GATEKEEPERS OF EYE CARE



### Chairman's Introduction

Often the Chairs report opens with good (or sometimes bad) news about our progress to develop and deliver Enhanced Services across the whole of Devon and I am pleased to say more good news is on the way later.

But first I would like to touch on Education.

It was great to recently hear from Prof Paul Artes, Head of the School of Optometry in Plymouth, about a new Masterclass on Optic Nerve Head assessment that the guys at Plymouth University have put together ([here](#)). This is to be a 1 ½ day programme and forms part of a series of Masterclasses that Paul and his colleagues are putting together. Although this first event is aimed at Optometrists with strong Volk skills, future Masterclass events will include content for Dispensing Opticians and Optical Assistants. Devon LOC has always believed that the University was an untapped resource for local Eye Health professionals and it is very positive news that these events are being planned. Paul is open to suggestions on future Masterclass topics and can be contacted on [paul.artes@plymouth.ac.uk](mailto:paul.artes@plymouth.ac.uk)

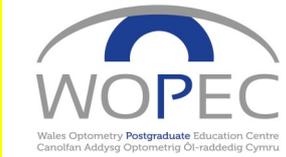
This bit of news followed hot on the heels of the first Plymouth Eye Specialist Forum meeting which was very well attended at the Post Graduate Medical Centre at Derriford Hospital. This event, organised by Tomas Cudrnak Clinical Director REI, is a bi-monthly event and the next event on the 6th July 2017 is planned to coincide with the launch of Devon's first community post cataract scheme.

This scheme for patients in the catchment area of Derriford Hospital will go live in July of this year and is managed by Primary Eyecare Devon, the contracting arm of Devon LOC.

I have recently been contacted by colleagues who have been asked by patients for "letters of expediency". Apparently patients on contacting their local hospital eyecare departments chasing up follow up appointments; have been told that such a letter can be obtained from the referring opticians practices and have been left with the impression that such a letter will "bump" them up the waiting lists. Devon LOC is totally unaware of such a letter and I would be most grateful if details of such requests could be forwarded to me ([max@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:max@devonloc.co.uk)). Such requests place Optometrists in a very difficult position - no one wants to appear to be unhelpful, but to clarify there is no such referral pathway in Devon.

I hope you all have a great summer and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible over the coming months,

Max Halford, Chairman



#### NEW FREE CET WOPEC MODULE

Devon LOC can now issue code for the **Children's Vision WOPEC module**.

Other modules include Minor Eye Conditions, Low Vision, Learning Disabilities, Cataract and Glaucoma.

For more information or codes to access these courses please contact Jonathan Drew ([jdrew@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:jdrew@devonloc.co.uk))

#### LOC PRESENTS AT NATIONAL CONFERENCE



Devon LOC had the privilege of presenting at the Vision UK 2017 National Conference on 15th June in London.

Fiona Hiscox and Jonathan Drew spoke to a wide audience on integrated care and solutions to the rising demand on eye care services.

Our presentation raised awareness of what opticians practices can offer in terms of enhanced optical services that meet NHS objectives ensuring patients are seen in the right place (close to home) at the right time.



#### OPTOMETRY TODAY PUBLISHES ARTICLE ON DEVON LOC BROCHURE OF SERVICES

In May 2017 Optometry Today published an article about our new brochure of services titled 'Local and Accessible Eyecare Services'.

The Community eyecare services brochure will be used to help raise awareness of eye care with other healthcare professionals in the county. See the article [here](#)

The brochure includes an overview of the local workforce, the rising patient demand for services, an insight into what enhanced services optometrists in Devon already deliver, and the accreditation courses that are in place.

See our [website](#) for a copy of the brochure



### RD&E West of England Eye Unit (WEEU) Message

#### WEEU Surgery Waiting Times

The wait for both first and second eye cat surgery is around 16 weeks at the moment.

Glaucoma (trab, xen etc.) – 6 weeks

Retinal surgery – 12 weeks unless it's urgent.

Squints - 14 weeks

Lids - 18 weeks

#### Reminder: Pre registration placements at WEEU 2017/18

Please can supervisors email requests to Elizabeth Sullivan elizabeth.sullivan@nhs.net

### BREXIT AND POLITCS

#### The impact of Brexit on Health and Social Care

The House of Commons Health Select Committee has published a report on the impact of the UK's withdrawal from the European Union on the provision of health and social care.

See the report [here](#)

#### What does the new government mean for health and care?

A whirlwind election campaign has resulted in a hung parliament.

This briefing is an initial assessment of the main takeaways for the NHS and the wider health and care system. It identifies areas of alignment and disagreement between the two parties and the NHS Confederation's priorities for the new government.

See the NHS Confederation briefing [here](#)



### NEW PLYMOUTH CATARACT SCHEME

We are pleased to say that in partnership with the REI in Plymouth we have a new cataract follow-up scheme starting in July 2017.

The scheme covers the catchment area of the REI including parts of the South Hams and East Cornwall.

### WHAT DOES THE FUTURE OF OUR PROFESSION HOLD?



In December 2016 the GOC published a call for evidence on their Education Strategic Review asking for feedback on a total of 17

wide-ranging questions about the future of eye care delivery and the implications of these changes for the education of optical professionals.

The results can be read [here](#)...interesting reading!.

### \*\*\*FAO ALL PRE-REG OPTOMS\*\*\*

Qualified optometrists need to be included in the NHS England Ophthalmic Performers List to perform GOS sight tests in England.

Primary Care Support England (PCSE) are responsible for administering applications to National Performer Lists on behalf of NHS England. The decision to admit or decline an applicant to the National Performers List is the responsibility of NHS England.

The full process can take up to 12 weeks from the point of application, including a Face to Face (F2F) appointment for PCSE to verify the applicant's documents. LOCSU and the Optical Confederation have been working with NHS England and PCSE to streamline the application process and minimise delays.

LOCSU and the Optical Confederation have produced some resources designed to help pre-registration optometrists navigate the Ophthalmic Performers List application process and obtain their OPL number as quickly as possible after qualifying

See the resources [here](#)

### CONTINUOUS EDUCATION AND TRAINING (CET)

See the Devon LOC website for an updated list of CET events both locally and nationally—click [here](#) to see the LOC website



Devon Local Optical Committee: Representing, supporting and communicating with local contractors and performers to ensure, as gatekeepers of eyecare, effective delivery of Ophthalmic Services across the whole of Devon.

#### Devon Local Optical Committee

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Scan to view Website (QR)



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Vice Chair: Charles Bill ([charles@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:charles@devonloc.co.uk))

Secretary: Fiona Hiscox ([secretary@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:secretary@devonloc.co.uk))

Treasurer: Daniel Tabb ([treasurer@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:treasurer@devonloc.co.uk))

#### Committee Members:

Nicola Burke, Mark Bushby, Kath Dandy, Josie Forte, Ian Holten, Greg Mann, Peter Noakes and Nicki Pullen

Business Manager: Jonathan Drew ([jdrew@devonloc.co.uk](mailto:jdrew@devonloc.co.uk))